THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 1.1.1999, ONGC has acquired 2808 Ground Line Kilometer (GLK) of refraction/single fold 2D data, 29791 GLK of multifold 2D data, 1049 SSK and 3861 GLK of 3D seismic data and drilled 296 exploratory wells (including 10 structural wells) and 36 development wells in Cauvery Onland basin. In addition, off the Tamil Nadu coast, under Exploration Bidding Rounds contracts have been signed for 2 blocks viz. CY-OS-90/1 and CY-OS/2 falling in Cauvery Offshore. The Contracts are under operation.

The Government has offered 4 blocks in offshore Cauvery basin under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Additionally, 2 deepwater blocks, 1 in Cauvery basin offshore and 1 covering a part of Cauvery and Palar offshore basins have also been offered for exploration udner NELP.

The quantity of crude oil produced by ONGC from Cauvery basin during April 1998-January 1999 is 0.3064 Million Metric Tonnes.

As far as private/joint venture companies are concerned, the production of crude oil in Cauvery basin started in July 1997 from the exploration block CY-OS-90/1 (PY-3). The current rate of production from this field is about 1,000 tonnes per day.

(c) Does not arise.

Restructuring PSUs in Oil Sector

1030. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to restructure Public Sector Undertakings in the Oil Sector;

(b) whether P.M. while inaugrating Petroteck '99 recently in Delhi has announced restructuring of incentives to attract investment under New Exploration Licensing Policy, if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what adequate precautionary measures to safeguard nation's interest are likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government has constituted a Committee to look into the need of restructuring of some of the oil companies.

(b and (c) The incentives from time to time are being built into the phased dismantling of the administered price mechanism and tariff structure to attract investments consistent with the overall national priority and interests.

Increasing Oil Exploration

1031. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the acreage available under new exploration policy;

(b) how many parties internationally have shown interest under the new exploration policy; and

(c) how does Government plan to increase oil exploration during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy, 48 exploration blocks measuring about 0.462 million sq. km. have been offered for bidding to both private sector and public sector companies on terms that provide a level playing field to investors.